

Sample LEA Press Release for HQT Annual Reporting

Data on Highly Qualified Teachers Released

The 2001 federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) requires that all public school teachers of “core academic subjects” meet the “highly qualified teacher” (HQT) requirements of the Act.

Under NCLBA educators must be properly licensed and endorsed for the subjects and instructional levels they teach, and have the required content knowledge for the endorsement they are using in the assignment. The law also requires that schools receiving federal Title I funds notify parents when their child is being taught a “core academic subject” by a teacher who has not yet met the federal requirements.

The Vermont Department of Education determines the HQT status of educators for their assignment both statewide and school-by-school. Under NCLBA, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to report the percentage of classes in each school that are taught by teachers who have not yet met HQT requirements for their assignment by LEA and school. NCLBA also requires LEAs to report on the number and percentage of teachers in each school who are teaching under temporary emergency licenses and to provide information regarding the professional qualifications of their educators. (Visit www.education.vermont.gov for statewide results.)

Here are some key points to keep in mind when reviewing local data:

- **There are a number of reasons why a class might be taught by an educator who is not HQT for his or her assignment.** These reasons include teaching under an emergency license, being assigned to teach a grade level or subject area that is outside of the parameters of the educator’s current license and endorsements, or not yet meeting the content knowledge requirements to be HQT for the assignment.
- **The federal HQT requirements pertain only to teachers of “core academic subjects” as defined by NCLBA.** These are English language arts (including English as a Second Language), math, science, social studies, reading, foreign languages, art, music, and the generalist endorsement areas of elementary and early childhood education (grades K-3 only).
- **Emergency license figures include teachers of all subjects, not just “core academic subjects” as defined by NCLBA (see above). However, they do not include administrators or student support personnel (e.g., guidance counselors, nurses) working under emergency licenses.**
- **In any instance where a class is taught by an educator that is not HQT for an assignment, an individual plan is in place for the class to become so with the support of the school administration.**
- **The data that is being reported is from the 2008-2009 school year. 2009-2010 school year data will be available next winter.**

- **In small schools, the percentages of educators who are HQT for their assignments may fluctuate significantly year to year because of the small number of classes and teachers.**

For more information on the Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements, visit
<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/hqt.html>.

[Include contact information for your school here.]